

# Cressmoor Prairie Nature Preserve

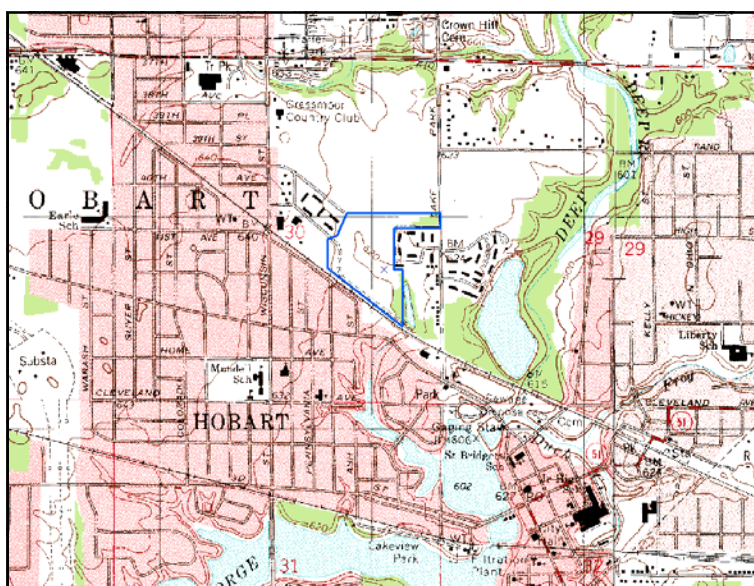
County: Lake  
Ownership: Shirley Heinze Land Trust

Size: 38 acres



## Location and Access

**Parking lot and trail.** From the intersection of I-65 and Business US 6 (Exit #258; also called Ridge Rd.), go east on Ridge Rd. about 2.5 mi to Lake Park Ave. Turn south (right) on Lake Park Ave., and go about 0.5 mi to the parking lot on the west side of the road. A trail traverses the preserve.



**Description:** Cressmoor Prairie is the largest protected example of a silt-loam or “black soil” prairie in Indiana. Black soil prairies were once the most common prairies in Indiana. However, their rich, fertile soil was among the very finest agricultural ground anywhere in the world, so most were plowed under for farming. As a result, black soil prairies are exceedingly rare.

Over 250 species of plants have been found at Cressmoor Prairie. Typical prairie species occurring here in great numbers include wild quinine, dense blazing star, rattlesnake master, prairie dock, and compass plant.

## Further Information:

Shirley Heinze Land Trust, 444 Barker Rd., Michigan City, IN 46360, (219) 879-4725.

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Division of Nature Preserves, 402 W. Washington St., Rm W267, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-0209.

[www.in.gov/dnr/naturepr](http://www.in.gov/dnr/naturepr)